

## Federal Maritime Commission

## § 535.801

be furnished by the parties within the time specified.

[61 FR 11577, Mar. 21, 1996]

### § 535.709 Application for waiver.

(a) Upon a showing of good cause, the Commission may waive any requirement of this subpart.

(b) A request for such a waiver must be approved in advance of the filing of the Monitoring Report or minutes to which the requested waiver would apply. The Commission will take into account the presence or absence of shipper complaints in considering an application for a waiver. Requests for a waiver shall state:

(1) The specific requirements from which relief is sought;

(2) the special circumstances requiring the requested relief; and

(3) why granting the requested waiver will not substantially impair effective regulation of the agreement.

[61 FR 11576, Mar. 21, 1996]

## Subpart H—Mandatory and Prohibited Provisions

### § 535.801 Independent action.

(a) Each conference agreement shall specify the independent action ("IA") procedures of the conference, which shall provide that any conference member may take independent action on any rate or service item upon not more than 5 calendar days' notice to the conference and shall otherwise be in conformance with section 5(b)(8) of the Act.

(b)(1) Each conference agreement that provides for a period of notice for independent action shall establish a fixed or maximum period of notice to the conference. A conference agreement shall not require or permit a conference member to give more than 5 calendar days' notice to the conference, except that in the case of a new or increased rate the notice period shall conform to the tariff publication requirements of this chapter.

(2) A conference agreement shall not prescribe notice periods for adopting, withdrawing, postponing, canceling, or taking other similar actions on independent actions.

(c) Each conference agreement shall indicate the conference official, single designated representative, or conference office to which notice of independent action is to be provided. A conference agreement shall not require notice of independent action to be given by the proposing member to the other parties to the agreement.

(d) A conference agreement shall not require a member who proposes independent action to attend a conference meeting, to submit any further information other than that necessary to accomplish the publication of the independent tariff item, or to comply with any other procedure for the purpose of explaining, justifying, or compromising the proposed independent action.

(e) A conference agreement shall specify that any new rate or service item proposed by a member under independent action (except for exempt commodities not published in the conference tariff) shall be included by the conference in its tariff for use by that member effective no later than 5 calendar days after receipt of the notice and by any other member that notifies the conference that it elects to adopt the independent rate or service item on or after its effective date.

(f)(1) As it pertains to this part, "adopt" means the assumption in identical form of an originating member's independent action rate or service item, or a particular portion of such rate or service item. If a carrier adopts an IA at a lower rate than the conference rate when there is less than 30 days remaining on the original IA, the adopted IA should be made to expire 30 days after its effectiveness to comply with the statutory 30-day notice requirement. In the case of an independent action time/volume rate ("IA TVR"), the dates of the adopting IA may vary from the dates of the original IA, so long as the duration of the adopting IA is the same as that of the originating IA. Furthermore, no term other than "adopt" (e.g., "follow," "match") can be used to describe the action of assuming as one's own an initiating carrier's IA. Additionally, if a party to an agreement chooses to take on an IA of another party, but alters it, such action is considered a new IA and